

REMARKS

This responds to the first Official Action mailed March 8, 2005 in connection with the above identified patent application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 were pending in the application.

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been replaced with claims 8-10, each independent and reciting the claim in slightly alternative language. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 have been deleted, claims 3, 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from new claim 8.

Claims 8-10 are supported by the original application and thus, it is to be noted that no new matter has been introduced in amending the original set of claims, since the amended set of claims contains only limitations that were disclosed in the original specification.

In particular, new claims 8-10 are supported by original claims 1, 2 and 4. Moreover, it is clear from Figure 1 that in the rest position the activating lever is aligned along an axis passing through the pivot of the control lever and the hinging pivot of the activating lever. As it is disclosed on specification page 4, lines 9-15, this particular alignment of the activating lever in the rest position allows reducing the reciprocal sliding between the control lever and the second end

portion of the activating lever when the device is in use, limiting wear on the mechanical parts and thus increasing working life and reliability thereof.

Furthermore, it also reduces the strength which is necessary to apply on the control lever for rotating the activating lever and obtaining an equal strength on the pusher element. This advantage is due to the fact that the particular above described alignment of the activating lever allows the force applied to the second end portion of the activating lever to be perpendicular to the line which connects the second end portion of the activating lever to the hinging pivot of the activating lever, so the moment is maximum.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The amendment to depend from claim 8 cures the noted defects.

Withdrawal of the informal objections/rejections is solicited.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,979,800 by TAKAGI.

The Official Action states that TAKAGI discloses a spray gun comprising a manually operated control lever 6, an intercept valve 7, an activating lever 4 and a pin 3.

Applicant wants to note differences between the solution claimed by TAKAGI and the one claimed by the present application.

With respect to the new independent claims, e.g. claim 8, the device claimed by TAKAGI is a sprinkler nozzle not adapted for water cleaner apparatus which operate with high working pressure values. Moreover it does not disclose an activating lever which is aligned along an axis passing through the pivot of the control lever and the hinging pivot of the activating lever when the device is in the rest position.

By contrast the sprinkler nozzle described by TAKAGI presents the aforementioned alignment when the device is in the operative position, with the control lever pushed against the holding cylinder. This configuration does not assure a limited wear on the mechanical parts, as the present invention does, since the whole activating lever disclosed by TAKAGI is constantly in a reciprocal sliding contact with the control lever.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,005,824 by BECKER et al.

The Official Action states that BECKER et al. disclose a spray gun comprising a manually operated control lever 31, an intercept valve having pin 39, an activating lever 48 and an elastic element 49.

Also for this document it is possible to do the same remarks as for the document by TAKAGI. In fact, BECKER et al. do not show an activating lever which exhibits a length which places its second end portion in contact with the control lever along an axis passing through the pivot of the control lever and the hinging pivot of the activating lever when the whole device is in a first rest position.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore also solicited.

There are also presented as prior art four other documents not widely commented by the Official Action, but are indicated to be pertinent to applicant's disclosure since they describe spray guns having a control lever and an activating lever.

Applicant has analyzed the four documents and has found that no one shows an activating lever which, while the spray gun is in a rest position, is aligned along an axis passing through

the pivot of the control lever and the hinging pivot of the activating lever.

In fact, the device disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 2,958,471 by ZIPPEL has, in the rest position, the control lever parallel to the activating lever. The former pushes the latter with a wedge and makes it rotate around a pivot.

U.S. Patent No. 5,662,273 by CHIH describes a spray gun with a quite complex mechanism for activating the device, comprising a plurality of levers and springs coupled in different ways.

U.S. Patent No. 3,698,644 by NYSTUEN describes a spray gun with a control lever 30 and an activating lever 33 hinged to the former lever. The latter presents a curved profile and it does not act directly on the intercept valve. Finally, U.S. Patent No. 1,797,209 by BRAMSEN et al. also describes a control lever which pushes an activating lever and makes it rotate, around a pivot, in order to open an intercept valve. The activating lever is not in the particular configuration described above.

Applicant has widely shown that none of the prior art documents disclose the limitations of the claimed invention.

Since none of the cited documents discloses a spray gun for water cleaner apparatus, comprising an intercepting valve and an activating mechanism for the intercept valve with a control lever and an activating lever aligned along an axis passing through the pivot of the control lever and the hinging pivot of

the activating lever when the spray gun is in a first rest position, present claim 8 is new over the cited prior art documents and therefore patentable.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 are submitted to be patentable along with claim 8 from which they directly depend, and also based upon the additional limitations recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

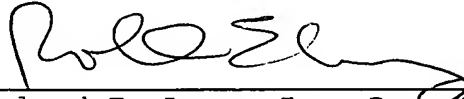
The undersigned attorney stands ready to be of any assistance necessary in order to place the application in condition for allowance. It is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted if necessary in order to address any further outstanding matters.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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